

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

APRIL 7, 1858.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. THOMSON, of New Jersey, submitted the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the memorial and accompanying papers of Mrs. Nannie Denman, widow of First Lieutenant Frederick J. Denman, deceased, late of the United States army, asking a pension, beg leave to report:

Lieutenant Denman was a graduate of West Point in 1842, and was attached to the first regiment of United States infantry. He was stationed for several years on the northwestern frontier, and when the Mexican war broke out was ordered, with his company, to join General Taylor, and served through the war. He was afterwards stationed at Fort Terrett, in Texas, where he died March 2, 1853, from an accidental gun-shot wound.

The circumstances of his death are set forth in the official communication of Assistant Surgeon Cooper, hereunto appended, marked A. There is no law granting a pension to the widow of an officer who died under the circumstances stated, nor are the committee aware of any special act having been passed in such a case. They are not prepared to establish a precedent in the case of Mrs. Denman, and therefore recommend that the prayer of the petitioner be denied, and ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the case.

A.

WASHINGTON CITY, February 13, 1854.

SIR: In reply to your request for information relative to the death of Lieutenant F. T. Denman, adjutant of the 1st regiment of United States infantry, I make the following statement, derived from official letters received at Fort Duncan, Texas, whilst I was on duty at that post:

“Lieutenant Denman, of the 1st United States infantry, left Fort Terrett, Texas, on the 2d of March, 1853, accompanied by Lieutenant Holabird, of the same regiment, for the purpose of hunting. At some five miles distant from the post, whilst going through a chap-

paral, the rifle in the hands of Lieutenant Holabird was accidentally discharged, and the ball from it struck Lieutenant Denman, who was in the advance of him, in the thigh, in consequence of which wound he died shortly after the arrival of the medical officer from the post at the scene of the accident."

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEORGE E. COOPER,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. A.

SURGEON GENERAL, *U. S. A.*,
Washington, D. C.